

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows: A new abstract numbered page 37 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system architecture for managing a telecommunication network includes network equipment and supported network services, wherein the equipment has associated control interfaces. The architecture has a base layer proxying the interfaces and decoupling them from management functions, and a support layer having a community of agents co-ordinating operation of the base layer in order to support distributed management functionalities. The base layer and the support layer constitute separated superposed layers in the architecture. The layers in the architecture preferably include components adapted to perform respective functions based on respective instruction information provided to them. A data base is provided for storing the instruction information. The architecture is arranged for distributing the instruction information from the data base to the components. Preferably, all the layers in the architecture include process executors.